

I claim:

- Sub B1*
1. A barrel assembly for a weapon, said barrel assembly including:
 - a barrel;
 - a plurality of projectile assemblies axially disposed in end to end abutting relationship within said barrel for operative sealing engagement with the bore of the barrel, each projectile including a projectile head and an integral cylindrical spacer portion extending axially and rearwardly from said projectile head;
 - discrete propellant charges accommodated within said cylindrical spacer portion for propelling respective projectile assemblies sequentially through the muzzle of the barrel;
 - ignition means for igniting said discrete propellant charges; and
 - control means for selectively and sequentially actuating the ignition means.
 2. The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a rearward end of the cylindrical spacer portion is adapted to abut the forward or leading end of the subsequent projectile assembly.
 3. The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cylindrical spacer portion is expandable into operative sealing contact with said bore of the barrel.
 4. The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the interior of the cylindrical spacer portion is structurally reinforced to prevent excessive radial expansion of the projectile.
 5. A barrel assembly for a weapon, said barrel assembly including:
 - a barrel having a muzzle;
 - a plurality of projectiles axially disposed in end to end abutting relationship within said barrel, each projectile including a projectile head and a trailing cylindrical extension in close proximity with the barrel;
 - [an internal wedging surface] at or adjacent the trailing end of said cylindrical extension which accommodates a tapered nose part of the following projectile, for

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Sub B2

discrete propellant charges¹⁶ for propelling respective projectiles sequentially through the muzzle of said barrel.

control means for selectively and sequentially actuating said ignition means.

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extension is [a thin cylindrical rear extension] of the projectile head.

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12. ^{NE} The barrel assembly as claimed in either Claim 8 or Claim 11 wherein the internal spacer is integral with the head and trailing cylindrical extension.

13. ^{NE} The barrel assembly as claimed in either Claim 8 or Claim 11 wherein the internal spacer is formed separately from the head and trailing cylindrical extension.

14. ^{NE} The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 8 wherein, upon loading respective projectiles into the barrel and thereafter causing an axial displacement of the projectiles causes radial expansion of said trailing ends thereof to enhance the sealing engagement between the projectiles and the barrel.

15. ^{NE} The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the axial displacement is suitably caused to said projectiles individually, subsequent to each projectile being loaded into the barrel.

16. ^{NE} The barrel assembly as claimed in either Claim 14 or Claim 15 wherein the radial expansion into enhanced sealing engagement with the barrel is limited through engagement between the penetrating nose of a following projectile and the internal spacer.

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